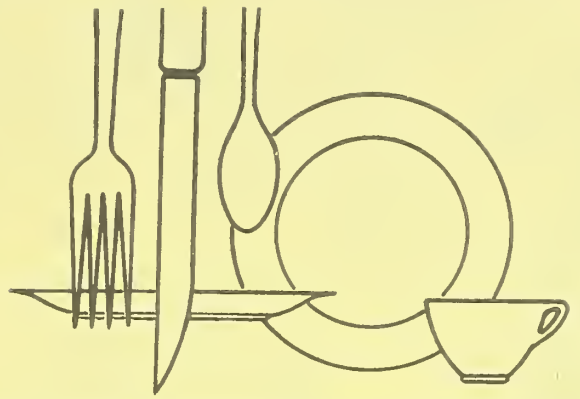


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PRE-VUE



A SUMMARY OF THE FOOD OUTLOOK DESIGNED TO GIVE ADVANCE INFORMATION TO FOOD EDITORS

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MEATS Slaughter of steers and heifers likely will remain large this year. Cow and calf slaughter, though, is expected to decline. Thus, beef output will continue at a high level, perhaps not much different from last year. Cow slaughter under Federal inspection rose 25% in 1965, however a decrease is anticipated this year due to more favorable long-term prospects for cattle. Calf slaughter is already averaging under year-earlier levels and a moderate decline is in prospect for 1966. Since last fall hog slaughter has averaged well under year-earlier figures. Around mid-year, though, hog slaughter will be above 1965 levels, reflecting expansion in farrowing that began late last year. With the turn-around in production, a moderate gain in hog slaughter is now in prospect for the last half of the year, with most of the increase due next autumn. At the beginning of this year the 26.5 million sheep and lambs on farms was the smallest since records began 100 years ago. The decline of 1% during last year, though, was below that of other recent years.

POULTRY

AND EGGS Marketings of broiler-fryers in the 4 weeks ending March 16 were 10% larger than a year earlier. That's based on head slaughtered under Federal inspection. Marketings in May also are expected to be about a tenth greater than a year earlier. Turkey growers are expanding output this year after a relatively profitable experience in 1965. It now appears that the 1966 turkey crop will be about 10 percent larger than the 105 million birds raised in 1965. March 1 cold storage holdings of turkeys totaled 155 million pounds, or 12 million pounds under a year ago. Average for that date is 172 million pounds. U.S. egg production on March 1 declined 2.3% from a year earlier. This resulted from both decreased output per hen (1.8%) and number of layers (0.5%). Production of eggs in May is expected to run close to year-earlier levels.

DAIRY Milk production likely will decline about 2 percent from the 125.1 billion pounds produced last year, when milk cow numbers showed an above-average decline and production gains per cow were small. Therefore, 1965 milk output fell 1.5% from the 1964 record. Last year's changes were due to high livestock prices, poor feed conditions in some dairy States, and favorable off-farm opportunities for dairy farmers. So far similar conditions point to reduced milk output for 1966.

FRUITS The 1965-66 citrus crop is expected to be a tenth greater than the previous season and 14% larger than average. By March 1 nearly half the orange crop and 60% of grapefruit had been harvested. The Nation's orange crop is expected to total 133 million boxes--a tenth more than last season's and 15% over average. Florida is expected to account for 71% of total U.S. output, California 26%, and Arizona and Texas about 3%. Grapefruit output, estimated at 45.2 million boxes, is a tenth above the previous season and 15% above average. Florida's crop, forecast at 34 million boxes, is down 1 million from the February 1 estimate. Lemons are forecast at 17.4 million boxes--up 19% from last season and 7% above average. By March 1 harvest of Arizona's crop was about over but only 21% of California's crop had been picked. Marketing outlets will be heavily supplied with raisins, as last year's crop was the largest since 1952. Output of American-type grapes last year was 5% greater than in 1964 and 19% above the recent average. Supplies of grape juice are abundant, too. Florida's winter strawberries are estimated at 33% below last year's crop.

Cold storage holdings of frozen fruits on March 1 totaled 435 million pounds--5% below a year ago but 9% above average. Frozen orange juice concentrate on March 1 totaled 35 million gallons--13% below a year earlier, and 6% under average.

VEGETABLES .. Estimates for winter vegetables on March 1 placed the total at 34.2 million hundredweight--8% below last year and 4% under average. Here's this year's roundup, compared with last winter's figures: Cabbage, down 6%, Texas and California carrots, down 30%, peppers, down 14%. Winter sweet corn in Florida is down 8%, and Florida eggplant, down 18%. Output of winter spinach is forecast at 8% below last year. On the upside, Florida's winter tomatoes were 2% above last year, celery up 11%. Spring lettuce output is up 17 percent but the spring onion crop in Texas is down 15%. Winter potato production is 39% larger than last year's below-average crop.

Frozen vegetable supplies on March 1 totaled 1 billion, 246 million pounds--down 134 million from a year ago. Average March 1 holdings are 956 million pounds.

HONEY While the 1965 commercial stocks are smaller than the near-record 1964 level, they are well above those for 1962 and 1963, so supplies are abundant.

PEANUTS AND PRODUCTS Last year's 2-1/2 billion pound crop was a record, so both peanuts and their products are in heavy supply.

The Plentiful Foods Program

The Consumer and Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, through its Plentiful Foods Program, is cooperating in the following food campaigns:

INDUSTRY-GOVERNMENT HONEY PROMOTION April 1-30
INDUSTRY-GOVERNMENT RAISIN PROMOTION April 16-May 15

The following foods will be in plentiful supply during the month of April:

RAISINS HONEY GRAPE JUICE SCALLOPS

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